

## Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 OES-05 PM-04 COME-00 DODE-00

NSF-02 /022 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB:LJA  
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EA/ANP MMICHAUD

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R 221420Z DEC 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS STATE 300259

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, AS

SUBJECT: R/V VEMA AUSTRALIAN PORT CALL

1. DEPT CONTACTED BY DR. WILLIAM LUDWIG OF LAMONT-DOHERTY RESEARCH LAB CONCERNING LEGAL STATUS OF VEMA. DR. LUDWIG STATED VEMA HAD ATTEMPTED TO BE CLASSIFIED A PUBLIC VESSEL FOR PURPOSE OF ENTERING AUSTRALIAN PORTS TO TAKE ON EXPLOSIVES BUT WAS REJECTED BY DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. EMBASSY DETERMINED VEMA WAS NOT A PUBLIC VESSEL AND SHIP'S AGENT IN AUSTRALIA ADVISED VEMA OPERATORS TO CONTACT DEPT FOR ASSISTANCE.

2. DEPT CONCURS WITH EMBASSY IN ITS DETERMINATION THAT VEMA IS NOT A PUBLIC VESSEL BUT RATHER A PRIVATE VESSEL BASED ON FACTS DESCRIBED PARA 3. HOWEVER, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SUPPORT EFFORTS OF VEMA, AS A PRIVATE VESSEL ENTERING PORT TO TAKE ON EXPLOSIVES FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. VEMA RESEARCH WILL BENEFIT U.S. MARINE SCIENCE INTERESTS.

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B. SEVERAL AUSTRALIAN SCIENTISTS WILL BE PARTICI-

PATING ON CRUISE.

C. BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES IS ACTUALLY PROVIDING A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE EXPLOSIVES.

3(A). VEMA IS A PRIVATE VESSEL OWNED AND OPERATED BY LAMONT-DOHERTY, WHICH IS A PRIVATE U.S. RESEARCH FACILITY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

3(B). THE VESSEL FLIES A PANAMANIAN FLAG, THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN IS H. KOHLER, A CANADIAN, AND THE CREW IS ALMOST ALL NOVA SCOTIAN. THE SCIENTIFIC PARTY IS U.S.

3(C). RESEARCH PROJECT IS FUNDED BY NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF), A U.S. GOVT AGENCY, IN ADDITION TO ACTUAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY NSF TO OPERATE VESSEL.

4. EMBASSY IS REQUIRED TO PASS THIS INFORMATION TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE AND TO A MR. SHANNON (TELEX AA 62007).

5. PLEASE CLARIFY GOA LAW OR REGULATIONS IN QUESTION. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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